This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge for gauging when a <u>straight</u> coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits, said nominal new thread profile providing said <u>straight</u> coil thread with a shear load bearing area, said thread wear gauge comprising:

a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least enough of said shear load bearing area has worn away to render said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use, said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when said straight coil thread is safe for continued use.

- 2.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said <u>straight</u> coil thread is an internal thread.
- 3.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said <u>straight</u> coil thread is an external thread.
- 4.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said <u>straight</u> coil thread is internal and said nominal new thread profile is convex.

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5.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said <u>straight</u> coil thread is internal and said nominal new thread profile is concave.

6.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said gauging

thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least

approximately 30 percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away to render

said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use.

7.(currently amended) A thread wear gauge of claim 1 wherein said gauging

thread being adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least

approximately 50 percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away to render

said straight coil thread unsafe for continued use.

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8.(currently amended) A method for gauging when a <u>straight</u> coil thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits using a thread wear gauge, said nominal new thread profile providing said <u>straight</u> coil thread with a load bearing area, said method comprising:

selecting a thread wear gauge having a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said <u>straight</u> coil thread wherein at least approximately half of said <del>normally</del> load bearing area has worn away, and said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said <u>straight</u> coil thread when less than approximately half of said load bearing area has been worn away;

attempting to threadably engage said gauging thread with said <u>straight</u> coil thread;

observing whether said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said straight coil thread; and

discontinuing the use of said <u>straight</u> coil thread if said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said <u>straight</u> coil thread.

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A thread wear gauge for gauging when a straight coil 9.(currently amended)

thread having a nominal new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits, said

nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a shear load bearing

area, said thread wear gauge comprising:

a gauging thread, said gauging thread being adapted to threadably engage said

straight coil thread wherein at least approximately half thirty percent of said shear load

bearing area has worn away, said gauging thread adapted to being unable to threadably

engage with said straight coil thread when less than approximately half thirty percent of

said shear load bearing area has been worn away.

10. (new) A thread wear gauge of claim 9 wherein said gauging thread being

adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less

than approximately fifty percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away.

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11.(new) A method for gauging when a straight coil thread having a nominal

new thread profile has been worn beyond safe limits using a thread wear gauge, said

nominal new thread profile providing said straight coil thread with a shear load bearing

area, said method comprising:

selecting a thread wear gauge having a gauging thread, said gauging thread being

adapted to threadably engage said straight coil thread wherein at least approximately

thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has worn away, and said gauging thread

adapted to being unable to threadably engage with said straight coil thread when less

than approximately thirty percent of said shear load bearing area has been worn away;

attempting to threadably engage said gauging thread with said straight coil

thread;

observing whether said gauging thread can be threadably engaged with said

straight coil thread; and

discontinuing the use of said straight coil thread if said gauging thread can be

threadably engaged with said straight coil thread.

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